

NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

27 July 1962

25X1A

NRO

Subject: Attached Memorandum, [REDACTED] 1871-62, IDEALIST Security

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Per our conversation of 27 July I am returning subject memorandum to you with the request that you consider whether certain parts of it might not benefit by some change in emphasis. As I said on the phone, I think there is no doubt that Mr. Chretien overreached himself in his presentation to the Air Force Academy, but it does seem to me that not all those transgressions listed in Paragraph 1 of subject memorandum are of the same order of seriousness.

The items I have underlined in pencil strike me as being out of order, but those not so underlined are at least debatable. For instance, the statement that "the U-2 still exists and can be used if the President directs" seems to me in accord with obvious facts and with the position the U. S. has taken since 1 May 1960. I think it at least debatable to assert that such a statement implies any more than would a statement of "no comment". Although I do not have a copy of the Security Policy paper that outlined what was (and was not) to be considered IDEALIST information, I recall that a considerable amount of information on the old CHALICE Project was considered to be in the public domain as a result of the 1 May 1960 incident.

Since the purpose of a memorandum to the DD/S is to assure that incidents like this do not happen in the future, I think we can make our point without raising issues of doubtful validity that can predictably cause a rejoinder from the DD/S - which would serve no useful purpose. I imagine that Mr. Chretien is already considerably chastised as a result of interviews since the Air Force Academy speech, and our current purpose, in my view should be to complete the record without arousing unnecessary antagonism. If you agree, perhaps this could be redrafted to accomplish this purpose without the side effects.

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Orig - Addressee

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bb (27 July 62)